

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 3-5, 17-19, and 66-68, without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter. Please amend Claims 1, 2, 6-16, and 20-65, and add Claims 69-77 as indicated below. The following is a complete listing of claims and replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the present application:

Claim 1 (currently amended): Method of predicting [[the]] a quantity of a printing product necessary for printing a document, ~~characterised in that it comprises of comprising the steps of:~~

~~storing the whole of said a document in the form of in its entirety as digital data[[,]];~~

~~dividing each page of the document into bands of the digital data;~~
~~creating, from [[these]] the digital data, a table (T) of limited capacity describing at least part of a monochromatic component of said document one of the bands, [[said]] with the monochromatic component corresponding to [[said]] the printing product and each cell of [[said]] the table representing at least a pixel[[,]];~~

~~counting (6) [[the]] a number of so-called switched-on pixels in [[this]] the table, with a switched-on pixel corresponding to a pixel for which a portion of the printing product must be ejected; and~~

~~deriving therefrom from a number of switched-on pixels corresponding to each band a necessary quantity (10) of [[said]] the printing product before enabling or demanding~~

[[said]] printing.

Claim 2 (currently amended): Method according to Claim 1, ~~characterised in~~
that an aforementioned

wherein the table (T) of limited capacity is created with ~~limited a capacity~~[[,]]
less than [[the]] a capacity necessary for describing [[said]] the monochromatic component
~~of said document, in that,~~

wherein groups of pixels of [[said]] the monochromatic component
~~of said document~~ are entered therein successively, ~~in that and~~

wherein, on each occasion [[the]] of counting, a number of switched-on pixels
is counted (6) until all [[said]] the monochromatic component of said document has been entered
in [[said]] the table and [[its]] the switched-on pixels have been counted.

02

Claims 3-5 (canceled)

Claim 6 (currently amended): Method according to [[claim]] Claim 1,
~~characterised in that it includes further comprising~~ a calculation step (10) ~~consists of multiplying~~
the number of switched-on pixels by a value representing an elementary quantity of [[said]] the
printing product.

Claim 7 (currently amended): Method according to Claim 6, wherein the

method is for an inkjet printing system, characterised in that said and wherein the value represents [[the]] a value of a droplet of the printing product that is ejected.

Claim 8 (currently amended): Method according to Claim 7, characterised in that said wherein the value is preselected according to predetermined parameters, such as, for example, the including a type of printer (7) and/or [[the]] a type of cartridge (8) and/or [[the]] a type of printing product (9).

Claim 9 (currently amended): Method according to Claim 8, characterised in that wherein a set of [[such]] values is stored and in that one of [[them]] the values is selected according to an actual a combination of [[such]] the predetermined parameters.

02

Claim 10 (currently amended): Method according to Claim 1, characterised in that said stored document is divided into pages to be printed (2), in that the aforementioned operations wherein the steps are performed in order to determine [[the]] a number of switched-on pixels (6) corresponding to each page, and in that the wherein a respective quantity of the printing product or products necessary for printing each page is derived therefrom.

Claim 11 (currently amended): Method according to Claim 10, characterised in that the wherein necessary quantities of the printing product or products for all [[the]] pages of the document are added (120).

Claim 12 (currently amended): Method according to Claim 1, characterised in that it consists further comprising the step of producing an item of information which can be used usable by a user from the determined derived necessary quantity of the printing product quantity or quantities.

Claim 13 (currently amended): Method according to Claim 1, characterised in that it wherein the method is implemented in a computer (20) connected to a printer (210).

Claim 14 (currently amended): Method according to Claim 1, characterised in that it wherein the method is implemented in a computer connected by a network (400) to another computer connected to a printer.

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Claim 15 (currently amended): Device for predicting [[the]] a quantity of a printing product necessary for printing a document, characterised in that it has means for storing the whole of said document in the form of digital data, comprising:

storage means for storing a document in its entirety as digital data;
divider means for dividing each page of the document into bands of the digital data;

creation means for creating, from [[these]] the digital data, a table of limited capacity describing at least part of a monochromatic component of said document one of the bands, [[said]] with the monochromatic component corresponding to [[said]] the printing product

and each cell in said of the table representing at least a pixel[[],];

counter means for counting (6) [[the]] a number of so-called switched-on pixels in [[this]] the table, with a switched-on pixel corresponding to a pixel for which a portion of the printing product must be ejected; and

deriver means for deriving therefrom from a number of switched-on pixels corresponding to each band a necessary quantity (10) of [[said]] the printing product before enabling or demanding [[said]] printing.

A2 Claim 16 (currently amended): Device according to Claim 15, characterised in that it has an aforementioned wherein the table of limited capacity[[],] is created with a capacity less than [[the]] a capacity necessary for describing [[said]] the monochromatic component of said document, wherein the device further comprises entry means for successively entering therein groups of pixels of [[said]] the monochromatic component of said document, and wherein the counter means [[for]], on each occasion of counting (6) [[the]], counts a number of switched-on pixels until all the whole of said monochromatic component of said document has been entered in [[said]] the table and [[its]] the switched-on pixels have been counted.

Claims 17-19 (canceled)

Claim 20 (currently amended): Device according to Claim 15, characterised in that it has further comprising calculation means (10) for multiplying the number of switched-on

pixels by a value representing an elementary quantity of [[said]] the printing product.

Claim 21 (currently amended): Device according to Claim 20 [[for]], wherein the device is included in an inkjet printing system, characterised in that said and wherein the value represents [[the]] a volume of a droplet of ejected the printing product that is ejected.

Claim 22 (currently amended): Device according to Claim 21, characterised in that it has further comprising selection means for preselecting [[said]] the value as a function of predetermined parameters, such as, for example, the including a type of printer (7) and/or [[the]] a type of cartridge (8) and/or [[the]] a type of printing product (9).

Claim 23 (currently amended): Device according to Claim 22, characterised in that it has further comprising:

second storage means for storing a set of [[such]] values; and
second selection means for selecting one of [[them]] the values according to an actual a combination of [[such]] the predetermined parameters.

Claim 24 (currently amended): Device according to Claim 15, characterised in that it has means for dividing said stored document into pages to be printed (2);
wherein the counter means for determining the determines a number of switched-on pixels (6) corresponding to each page; and

wherein the deriver means for deriving therefrom the derives from the number of switched-on pixels corresponding to each page, a respective quantity of the printing product or products necessary for printing each page.

Claim 25 (currently amended): Device according to Claim 24, characterised in that it has further comprising adder means (120) for adding [[the]] necessary quantities of the printing product or products for all [[the]] pages of the document.

Claim 26 (currently amended): Device according to Claim 15, characterised in that it has further comprising production means for producing an item of information which can be used usable by a user from the determined derived necessary quantity of printing product quantity or quantities.

Or
Claim 27 (currently amended): Device according to Claim 15, characterised in that it has wherein the device is utilized with a computer (20) and a printer (210).

Claim 28 (currently amended): Device according to Claim 15, characterised in that it has wherein the device is utilized with a computer connected by a network (400) to another computer connected to a printer.

Claim 29 (currently amended): Method according to Claim 1, for of managing

printing product resources available in a colour printer containing ~~that includes~~ several reservoirs of different printing products, characterised in that it consists comprising the steps of:

dividing (2) a document stored ~~in the form of~~ as digital data[[,]] into groups of [[such]] digital data representing pages[[,]];:

predicting (10) [[the]] a quantity of each printing product necessary for printing each page, also of the document, including:

dividing each page of the document into bands of the digital data,
creating, from the digital data, a table (T) of limited capacity describing
at least part of a monochromatic component of one of the bands, with the monochromatic
component corresponding to the printing product and each cell of the table representing at least a
pixel,

counting (6) a number of switched-on pixels in the table, with a
switched-on pixel corresponding to a pixel for which a portion of the printing product must be
ejected, and

deriving from a number of switched-on pixels corresponding to each
band a necessary quantity (10) of the printing product before enabling or demanding printing;
measuring (317, 324, 315), before printing, [[the]] a quantity of a printing
product actually available in a reservoir, for each reservoir[[,]],

seeking determining a selection of pages (415) [[which]] that would ensure
[[the]] exhaustion, at least approximately simultaneously, of at least one group of the
reservoirs[[,]], and

at least sending a message and/or triggering [[the]] implementation of a processing[[],] entailing ~~said selected pages, such as for example the printing of such selected~~ the selection of pages.

Claim 30 (currently amended): Method according to Claim 29, characterised in that it consists further comprising the steps of:

predicting [[the]] a quantity of each printing product necessary for printing pages in their natural order[[],];

updating, after each series of predictions concerning a page, [[the]] a quantity of each printing product [[which]] that would actually be available in each reservoir[[],];

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checking (406) after each updating whether a group of at least several at least some of the reservoirs are almost empty, actually printing the pages thus tested; and
at least sending a message (408)[[],] indicating [[the]] a need to change or fill the group of the reservoirs.

Claim 31 (currently amended): Method according to Claim 30, characterised in that wherein, after changing the group of the reservoirs, [[the]] processing (417) is resumed on [[the]] remaining pages of the document, considering taking into consideration a reduced number of pages.

Claim 32 (currently amended): Method according to Claim 30, characterised

~~in that wherein~~, during [[the]] processing of [[the]] pages in their natural order, [[the]] predicted quantities of products consumed for each page are stored, ~~with a view to a possible need for selection.~~

Claim 33 (currently amended): Method according to Claim 29, ~~characterised~~
~~in that wherein~~, in order to carry out a selection, it is checked, page after page, whether there is a change from a state [[where]] ~~in which~~ all [[the]] reservoirs in [[said]] ~~a~~ group are not empty to a state (411) [[where]] ~~in which~~ at least one of [[them]] ~~the reservoirs in the group~~ is completely empty, and ~~such a~~ ~~the~~ selection (415) is decided on when ~~this event~~ ~~the change~~ occurs.

Claim 34 (currently amended): Method according to Claim 33, ~~characterised~~
~~in that wherein~~, when ~~such a~~ ~~the~~ selection is decided on, [[the]] ~~a~~ quantity of each printing product necessary for printing [[the]] remaining pages is predicted and stored.

Claim 35 (currently amended): Method according to Claim 32, ~~characterised~~
~~in that 33, wherein~~, when ~~such a~~ ~~the~~ selection is decided on, [[the]] ~~a~~ quantity of each printing product necessary for printing [[the]] remaining pages is predicted and stored, and ~~in that said wherein the selection consists of seeking~~ ~~includes determining whether~~ a sub-group of pages (620) ~~exists whose printing would result in~~ ~~a group of~~ at least ~~several~~ ~~some of the reservoirs being almost empty at the end of the~~ ~~when~~ printing of [[these pages]] ~~the sub-group ends.~~

Claim 36 (currently amended): Method according to Claim 35, characterised in that said wherein the sub-group is such that determined to exist if all [[the]] structurally related reservoirs (61) forming a cartridge would be empty at the end of the when printing of [[this]] the sub-group ends.

Claim 37 (currently amended): Method according to Claim 35, characterised in that said wherein the sub-group is such that determined to exist if several structurally related reservoirs forming a cartridge would be empty at the end of the when printing of [[this]] the sub-group ends.

Claim 38 (currently amended): Method according to Claim 36, characterised in that said, wherein, if the sub-group is determined to exist, printing the sub-group (627) is actually printed when it can be determined and in that, and wherein at least one message (628) is sent indicating [[the]] a need to change or fill the group of the reservoirs.

Claim 39 (currently amended): Method according to Claim 29, characterised in that it consists further comprising the steps of:

predicting [[said]] a quantity of [[such]] a printing product necessary for printing [[such]] a page[[,]];

describing [[this]] the page by pixels (4); and

counting (6) [[the]] a number of switched-on pixels corresponding to [[said]]

the printing product.

Claim 40 (currently amended): Method according to Claim 39, characterised in
that the prediction of each wherein the step of predicting the quantity of a printing product
necessary consists, for printing a page includes:

using [[said]] digital data on the page under consideration, of;
creating a table (T_a , T_b , T_c , T_d) describing at least part of a monochromatic
component of said document, said, with the monochromatic component corresponding to [[said]]
the printing product and each cell of [[said]] the table representing a pixel[[,]];
counting [[the]] a number of switched-on pixels in [[this]] the table and
deriving therefrom from the number of switched-on pixels in the table a necessary quantity of
aforementioned corresponding the printing product.

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Claim 41 (currently amended): Method according to Claim 40, characterised in
that an aforementioned wherein

the table (T) of limited capacity is created with a limited capacity[[,]] less than
[[the]] a capacity necessary for describing [[said]] the monochromatic component of said page, in
that,

there are entered successively therein in the table (T) of limited capacity groups
of pixels of [[said]] the monochromatic component of said page, in that, and,

on each occasion [[the]] of counting, a number of switched-on pixels [[are]] is

counted until all [[said]] the monochromatic component of said page has been entered in [[said]] the table (T) and [[its]] the switched-on pixels have been counted (Figure 3).

Claim 42 (currently amended): Method according to Claim 41, characterised in that it consists further comprising the step of creating [[each]] a table of limited capacity from digital data representing adjacent bands of [[said]] the page.

Claim 43 (currently amended): Method according to Claim 42, characterised in that wherein overlapping broadened bands are selected, in that and, using [[the]] digital data corresponding digital data to the overlapping broadened bands, at least one enlarged table (103) is created, allowing which allows an image reprocessing entailing a modification of the switched-on pixels, in that said wherein the enlarged table is modified by applying a known correction algorithm (111), and in that the wherein counting of [[the]] switched-on pixels corresponding to [[the]] an excess part of [[said]] the enlarged table is excluded.

Claim 44 (currently amended): Method according to Claim 43, wherein the method is used for colour printing, characterised in that wherein as many enlarged tables (103) are created as there are printing products, with each enlarged table describing a monochromatic component of said page, in that, in a manner known per se, wherein a correction algorithm (111) is applied to all the enlarged tables before separately effecting [[the]] counting of the switched-on pixels in each enlarged table for predicting [[the]] different quantities of required printing

products required, of all [[the]] colours concerned.

Claim 45 (currently amended): Method according to Claim 40, characterised in that it includes further comprising a calculation step consists of multiplying (10) the number of switched-on pixels by a value representing an elementary quantity of [[said]] the printing product.

Claim 46 (currently amended): Method according to Claim 45, wherein the method is for an inkjet printing system, characterised in that said and wherein the value represents [[the]] a value of a droplet of the printing product that is ejected.

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Claim 47 (currently amended): Method according to Claim 46, characterised in that said wherein the value is preselected according to predetermined parameters, such as, for example, the including a type of printer (7) and/or [[the]] a type of cartridge (8) and/or [[the]] a type of printing product (9).

Claim 48 (currently amended): Method according to Claim 47, characterised in that wherein a set of [[such]] values is stored and in that one of [[them]] the values is selected according to an actual a combination of [[such]] the predetermined parameters.

Claim 49 (currently amended): Method according to Claim 4, characterised in

that the 29, wherein measurement or measurements of a quantity of a printing product actually available consists of in a reservoir includes arranging a capacitive branch including [[said]] the reservoir (312a, 312d), applying an alternating signal (317) to [[this]] the capacitive branch, and analysing a resulting signal (315) in order to derive therefrom said from the resulting signal the quantity of the printing product actually available.

Claim 50 (currently amended): Device according to Claim 15 for managing printing product resources available in a colour printer containing that includes several reservoirs of different printing products, characterised in that it has comprising:

divider means for dividing (2) a document stored in the form of as digital data, into groups of [[such]] digital data representing pages[.];

prediction means for predicting (10) [[the]] a quantity of each printing product necessary for printing each page[[,]] of the document, including:

means for dividing each page of the document into bands of the digital data,

means for creating, from the digital data, a table of limited capacity describing at least part of a monochromatic component of one of the bands, with the monochromatic component corresponding to the printing product and each cell in the table representing at least a pixel,

means for counting (6) a number of switched-on pixels in the table, with a switched-on pixel corresponding to a pixel for which a portion of the printing product

must be ejected, and

means for deriving from a number of switched-on pixels corresponding to each band a necessary quantity (10) of the printing product before enabling or demanding printing;

measurement means for measuring (317, 324, 315), before printing, [[the]] a quantity of a printing product actually available in a reservoir, for each reservoir[[,]];

determination means for seeking determining a selection of pages (415) [[which]] that would ensure [[the]] exhaustion, at least approximately simultaneously, of at least one group of the reservoirs[[,]]; and

message means for sending a message and/or triggering [[the]] implementation of a processing, entailing ~~said selected~~ the selection of pages, such as for example the printing of such selected pages.

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Claim 51 (currently amended): Device according to Claim 50, characterised in that the

wherein the prediction means for predicting being used for predicting the predicts a quantity of each printing product necessary for printing pages in their natural order, it has and

further comprising:

update means for updating, after each series of predictions concerning a page, [[the]] a quantity of each printing product [[which]] that would actually be available in

each reservoir[[],];

checking means for checking (406), after each updating, whether a group of at least several some of the reservoirs are almost empty[[],]; and

notice means for sending a message (408)[[],] indicating [[the]] a need to change or fill the group of the reservoirs.

Claim 52 (currently amended): Device according to Claim 51, characterised in that it has further comprising storage means for storing [[the]] predicted quantities of products consumed for each page, during a when processing of the pages in their natural order, with a view to a possible need for selection.

Or
Claim 53 (currently amended): Device according to Claim 52, characterised in that it has

wherein the prediction means for predicting the predicts a quantity of each printing product necessary for printing [[the]] remaining pages, and

wherein the storage means for storing them stores the predicted quantity of each printing product necessary for printing the remaining pages, when a selection of pages is decided on.

Claim 54 (currently amended): Device according to Claim 52, characterised in that it has

wherein the prediction means for predicting the predicts a quantity of each printing product necessary for printing [[the]] remaining pages, and

wherein the storage means for storing them stores the predicted quantity of each printing product necessary for printing the remaining pages, when a selection of pages is decided on and in that said, and

wherein the determination means for seeking a selection include means for seeking determine whether a sub-group of pages (620) exists whose printing would result in a group of at least several some of the reservoirs being almost empty at the end of the when printing of these pages the sub-group ends.

Claim 55 (currently amended): Device according to Claim 50, characterised in that it has

wherein the prediction means for predicting said predicts a quantity of [[such]] a printing product necessary for printing [[such]] a page, comprising, and further comprising:

describer means for describing [[this]] the page by pixels (4); and
counter means for counting (6) [[the]] a number of switched-on pixels corresponding to [[said]] the printing product.

Claim 56 (currently amended): Device according to claim 55, characterised in that it has further comprising:

creation means for creating a table (T_a, T_b, T_c, T_d) describing at least part of a monochromatic component of said document, [[said]] with the monochromatic component corresponding to [[said]] the printing product and each cell of [[said]] the table representing a pixel, wherein the counter means for counting the counts a number of switched-on pixels in [[this]] the table; and

deriver means for deriving therefrom from the number of switched-on pixels in the table a necessary quantity of aforementioned corresponding the printing product.

Claim 57 (currently amended): Device according to Claim 56, characterised in that it has an aforementioned

wherein the table of limited capacity[[],] is created with a limited capacity less than [[the]] a capacity necessary for describing [[said]] the monochromatic component of said page, and

further comprising:

entry means for successively entering therein in the table of limited capacity groups of pixels of [[said]] the monochromatic component of said page, and

wherein the counter means [[for]], on each occasion of counting [[the]], counts a number of switched-on pixels until all the whole of the said monochromatic component of said page has been entered in [[said]] the table of limited capacity and [[its]] the switched-on pixels have been counted (Figure 3).

Claim 58 (currently amended): Device according to Claim 57, ~~characterised in that it has~~ wherein the creation means for creating each limited-capacity creates the table of limited capacity from digital data representing adjacent bands of [[said]] ~~the~~ page.

Claim 59 (currently amended): Device according to Claim 58, ~~characterised in that it has~~ further comprising:

selection means for selecting overlapping broadened bands, wherein the creation means for creating creates at least one enlarged table (103) from the corresponding digital data, allowing corresponding to the overlapping broadened bands, which allows an image reprocessing entailing a modification of the switched-on pixels[[],];

modification means for modifying [[said]] the enlarged table by applying a known correction algorithm (111); and

exclusion means for deducting the excluding counting of [[the]] switched-on pixels corresponding to [[the]] an excess part of [[said]] the enlarged table.

or

Claim 60 (currently amended): Device according to Claim 59,
wherein the device is used for colour printing, ~~characterised in that it has~~ wherein the creation means for creating creates as many enlarged tables (103) as there are printing products, with each enlarged table describing a monochromatic component of said page, and
further comprising

correction means for applying, in a manner known per se, a correction algorithm (111) to all the enlarged tables; and

means for separately effecting [[the]] counting of the switched-on pixels [[of]] in each enlarged table for predicting [[the]] different quantities of required printing products, of all [[the]] colours concerned.

Claim 61 (currently amended): Device according to Claim 56, characterised in that it has further comprising calculation means for multiplying (10) the number of switched-on pixels by a value representing an elementary quantity of [[said]] the printing product.

Claim 62 (currently amended): Device according to Claim 61 [[for]], wherein the device is used with an inkjet printing system, characterised in that said and wherein the value represents [[the]] a volume of a droplet of ejected the printing product that is ejected.

Claim 63 (currently amended): Device according to Claim 62, characterised in that it has further comprising preselection means for preselecting [[said]] the value as a function of predetermined parameters, such as, for example, the including a type of printer (7) and/or [[the]] a type of cartridge (8) and/or [[the]] a type of printing product (9).

Claim 64 (currently amended): Device according to Claim 63, characterised in that it has further comprising:

storage means for storing a set of [[such]] values; and
selection means for selecting one of [[them]] the values according to an actual
a combination of [[such]] the predetermined parameters.

Claim 65 (currently amended): Device according to Claim 50, characterised in
that said wherein the measurement means for measuring a quantity of product actually available
include comprises:

a capacitive branch including [[said]] the reservoir (312a, 312d)[[,]];
means for applying an alternating signal (317) to [[this]] the capacitive branch;
and
means for analysing a resulting signal (315) in order to derive therefrom said
from the resulting signal the quantity of printing product actually available.

On
Claims 66-68 (canceled)

Claim 69 (new) Method according to Claim 1, wherein a band consists of a broadened band representing a band of a page of the document, increased by an overlap margin belonging to a band following the broadened band, and wherein the counting of the number of switched-on pixels in the table describing at least part of a monochromatic component of the broadened band excludes [[the]] switched-on pixels corresponding to [[the]] an excess part of the table.

Claim 70 (new): Method according to Claim 1 or Claim 69, wherein the table is modified by applying a known correction algorithm entailing modification of the switched-on pixels.

Claim 71 (new): Method according to Claim 70, wherein the method is used for colour printing, wherein as many tables are created as there are colours, with each table describing a monochromatic component of the document, and wherein a correction algorithm is applied to all the tables before separately effecting counting (6) of the switched-on pixels in each table for predicting different quantities of printing products required, of all the colours concerned.

Claim 72 (new): Device according to Claim 15, further comprising divider means for dividing each page of the document into broadened bands, with a broadened band representing a band of a page of the document, increased by an overlap margin belonging to a band following the broadened band, wherein the counter means excludes switched-on pixels corresponding to an excess part of the table describing at least part of a monochromatic component of the broadened band.

Claim 73 (new): Device according to Claim 15 or Claim 72, further comprising modification means for modifying the table by applying a known correction algorithm entailing modification of the switched-on pixels.

Claim 74 (new): Device according to Claim 73,
wherein the device is used for colour printing,
wherein the creation means creates as many tables as there are colours, with
each table describing a monochromatic component of the document, and
further comprising:

correction means for applying a correction algorithm to all the tables;
and

means for separately effecting counting (6) of the switched-on pixels of
each table for predicting different quantities of required printing products, of all the colours
concerned.

Claim 75 (new): Information storage medium storing a program for causing a
programmable processing apparatus to perform a method of predicting a quantity of a printing
product necessary for printing a document, wherein the method comprises the steps of:

storing a document in its entirety as digital data;
dividing each page of the document into bands of corresponding digital data;
creating, from the digital data, a table of limited capacity describing at least
part of a monochromatic component of one of the bands, with the monochromatic component
corresponding to the printing product and each cell of the table representing at least a pixel;
counting a number of switched-on pixels in the table, with a switched-on pixel
corresponding to a pixel for which a portion of the printing product must be ejected; and

deriving from a number of switched-on pixels corresponding to each band, a necessary quantity of the printing product before enabling or demanding printing.

Claim 76 (new): Information storage medium according to Claim 75, wherein the medium is one of a magnetic tape, a magnetic diskette, a fixed-memory compact disc, and a rewritable compact disc.

Claim 77 (new): Method according to Claim 29, wherein the measuring step for measuring a quantity of printing product available in a reservoir includes arranging a capacitive branch including the reservoir (312a, 312d), applying an alternating signal (317) to the capacitive branch, and analyzing a resulting signal (315) in order to derive therefrom the quantity of printing product available.
